

STIRRING TALES OF ALLURING WOMEN AND THE MEN WHO WERE THEIR

Heart

REALITY
CHECK
I.C.O.
12

THROBS

10¢

DECEMBER No.3





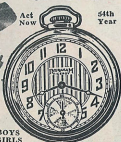
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GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH



Act Now

54th Year



BOYS GIRLS

Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Billboards (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th Year. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-A, TYRONE, PA.**

PREMIUMS-GIVEN-CASH

54th Year



BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES

- MEN - SEND NAME AND ADDRESS ON COUPON TODAY - NOW!

Genuine 22 Cal. Rifles, Lovable, Fully Dressed Dolls over 15 inches in height, Complete School Boxes, Pen & Pencil Sets, (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon for starting order. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-B, TYRONE, PA.**



Boys Girls Ladies Men

Act Now

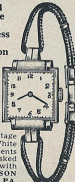
PREMIUMS GIVEN

54th Year



Send Name and Address On Coupon

BOYS GIRLS LADIES MEN



WE ARE RELIABLE

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, Alarm Clocks, Radios, Record Players (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-C, TYRONE, PA.**

PREMIUMS - CASH GIVEN

Boys - Girls Ladies - Men

Send Name and Address

— We Trust You Footballs, Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases, Complete Cub Fishing Outfits (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with starting order. **WILSON CHEM. Co., Dept. 108-D, Tyronne, Pa.**



MAIL COUPON

Dept. 108-D, Tyronne, Pa.

GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH COMMISSION

BE FIRST

ACT NOW

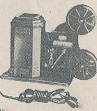


54th Year



BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN SEND NAME AND ADDRESS TODAY

Wrist Watches, Movie Projectors with roll of film, Weather Houses, Pencil Sharpeners (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th Year. We trust you. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-E, TYRONE, PA.**



Mail Coupon GIVEN

Act Now

BE FIRST

BOYS - MEN - 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles with tube of shot (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White Cloverine Brand Salve easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon today. Our 54th year. We are reliable. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-F, TYRONE, PA.**



Mail Coupon Today

WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108, TYRONE, PA. Date..... Gentlemen—Please send me on trial, twelve colorful art pictures with twelve boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount within 30 days, select a premium or keep Cash Commission as fully explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with my order postage paid to start.

NAME AGE

ST. R.D. BOX.....

TOWN ZONE No. STATE.....

Print LAST Name Here

Write or paste coupon on postal card or mail in an envelope

Swamp Flame

What was the mystery of Mara King's strange life? Why had her father buried her alive in the depths of the Cypress Swamps, forbidding her even a glimpse of the world beyond the curtain of Spanish Moss? Mara never knew...until the day the rich and handsome Bob Westly wandered into the lost bayou and found her! Then, for the first time, she tasted the forbidden wine of Life and Love!

To Mara King, daughter of the Cypress Swamps, flight was a familiar part of life!

QUICK, MARA! A BOAT IS COMING! INTO HIDDEN BAYOU AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

ALL RIGHT, FATHER! BUT I WISH JUST ONCE I COULD SEE ONE OF THESE BOATS YOU SPEAK OF!

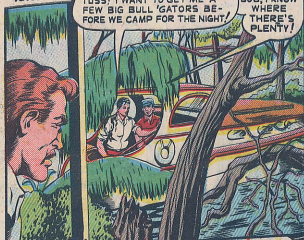
Obedience was the pattern of her existence but lately, as she passed her nineteenth birthday, a strange, stirring wonder had disturbed her peace!

WHY MUST I ALWAYS HIDE WHEN WE HEAR THAT SOUND, FATHER? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

SOMEDAY YOU WILL, MARA! BUT FOR NOW, JUST TRUST ME AND BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT!

PUTT PUTT PU

A moment
later...



CUT WEST AT THE NEXT SAVOU, TUSS! I WANT TO GET ME A FEW BIG BULL 'GATORS BEFORE WE CAMP FOR THE NIGHT!

SURE, MISTER BOB, I KNOW WHERE THERE'S PLENTY!

WAS THAT A YOUNG MAN, FATHER? HIS VOICE SOUNDED SO NICE AND... AND KIND! SURELY HE DON'T...

FORGET HIM, MARA! AND YOU ALWAYS SAY HE DOESN'T... NOT HEDON'T! THINK MORE OF YOUR LESSONS, MY DEAR, AND LESS ABOUT STRANGERS!



REMEMBER, DEAR... IF ANYONE COMES NEAR, HIDE AT ONCE! DON'T LET ANYONE SEE YOU... EVER!

ALL RIGHT, FATHER! I'LL BE AS CAREFUL AS I CAN BE!



I THINK I'LL TAKE MY SUNDOWN SWIM IN LOST POND! I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER WEAR THIS QUEER OUTFIT FATHER BROUGHT BACK FROM OUTSIDE!



That evening...

I HATE TO GO AFTER SUPPLIES NOW, MARA, BUT WE'RE OUT OF SO MANY THINGS! I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW NIGHT!

I'LL BE RIGHT HERE, FATHER! IF I HAVE TO MOVE THE BOAT, I'LL BREAK BRANCHES TO SHOW YOU THE WAY!

Alone, watching the lengthening shadows mark the approach of night, hearing only the grumble of frogs and the bellow of alligators, Mara fell to dreaming...



THE WORLD ISN'T ALL SWAMP! I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE OUT THERE! I WONDER WHY FATHER HIDES ME FROM EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE!



AND THIS CHEST! FATHER WON'T TELL ME WHAT'S IN IT BUT SOMETIMES LATE AT NIGHT HE OPENS IT, WHEN HE THINKS I'M ASLEEP... AND ONCE I SAW TEARS IN HIS EYES!

HEART THROBS

A few minutes later in a secret pool that Mara had known from childhood ...

SO THAT'S HOW I LOOK! I WONDER HOW GIRLS OUTSIDE LOOK? AND I WONDER IF A BOY WOULD LIKE ME THIS WAY? I NEVER KNEW A BOY...



But sinister, red-rimmed eyes watched the alluring figure from close by!

HERE GOES! THIS IS ONE PLACE THE ALLIGATORS NEVER COME! AT LEAST, I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE HERE!



At that moment, another silent shadow stole toward Lost Pond!

I'LL SLIP THROUGH AND SEE IF I CAN SURPRISE A NICE BULL 'GATOR LAZING ON A LOG! IF... MY WORD!



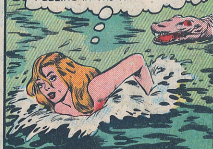
GOT HIM RIGHT IN THE TENDER SPOT! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, MISS!

OHH!



Silent, deadly, implacable, the great bull 'gator closed in on his chosen victim!

FUNNY! I'VE NEVER KNOWN THE FROGS TO STAY SO QUIET! THERE'S AN ODD FEELING IN THE AIR...

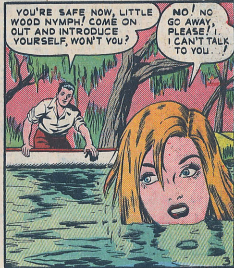


UPI! A WOOD NYMPH IF I EVER SAW ONE! AND A BULL 'GATOR WITH HIS EYE ON A QUICK MEAL! I CAN'T WARN HER...



YOU'RE SAFE NOW, LITTLE WOOD NYMPH, COME ON OUT AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF, WON'T YOU?

NO! NO GO AWAY, PLEASE! I CAN'T TALK TO YOU...



To Mara, the world suddenly dissolved in the thunder of a crashing shot and the bellows of the dying alligator!

AW, COME ON! AFTER ALL, I DID SAVE YOUR LIFE, DIDN'T I? CAN'T YOU AT LEAST TELL ME YOUR NAME? I'M BOB WESTLY...

I'M... I'M MARA KING! AND I AM GRATEFUL... BUT I PROMISED NOT TO SPEAK TO ANYONE! PLEASE UNDERSTAND!

Without warning, Mara was out of the pool, darting away through the trackless swamp like a wraith!

WHA...? MARA... WAIT! I DON'T UNDERSTAND! ALL I WANT TO DO IS TALK TO YOU!

ALL RIGHT, MARA KING! YOU CAN RUN AWAY NOW, BUT I'LL FIND YOU! I'LL SEARCH THESE BAYOUS UNTIL I DO... IF IT TAKES A LIFETIME!

From a hiding place, Mara watched the handsome stranger drift by, and now, strange longings tore at her heart!

YOU CAN'T HIDE FOREVER, MARA! SOONER OR LATER I'LL FIND YOU!

OH, I HOPE YOU DO, BOB WESTLY! FIND ME AND TALK TO ME! I'M SO TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY LONELY!

That night Mara lay awake, her heart pounding, her mind a turmoil of hopes and fears, her whole being awakening to the stir of unfamiliar emotions!

PLEASE KEEP HUNTING, BOB WESTLY! MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD I WANT YOU TO FIND ME!

The next morning...

I WONDER IF I'LL SEE BOB TODAY! I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE! ... I WONDER IF I'M IN LOVE! I'VE READ ABOUT LOVE!

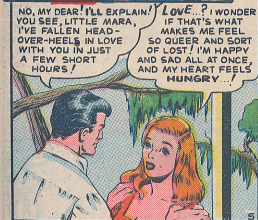
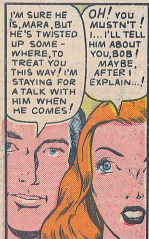
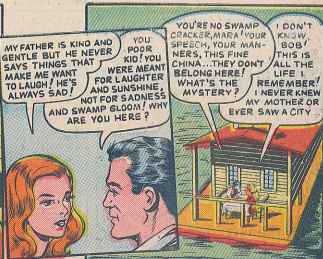
She stepped out onto the deck and her heart went wild!

BOB!

GOOD MORNING, MARA KING! I FOLLOWED THE SCENT OF FRYING CATFISH AND HERE I AM! I HOPE YOU'RE NOT ANGRY!

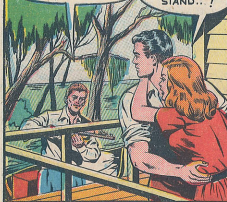
NO! NO, I'M NOT ANGRY! I FIRED THEM ON PURPOSE ... AND I FIXED ENOUGH FOR TWO!

YOU'RE NOT A WOOD NYMPH, AFTER ALL, MARA! YOU'RE AN ANGEL!



GET INSIDE, MARA! STEP AWAY!
I HAD A FEELING I SHOULD
GET BACK! I PADDLED
ALL NIGHT...!

FATHER!
WAIT... YOU
DON'T UNDER-
STAND...!



STEP BACK, MARA! I'LL HANDLE
THIS! YOUR FATHER
IS ENTITLED TO AN
EXPLANATION!

I DON'T
NEED EX-
PLANATIONS!
I CAN SEE WHAT GOES
ON WHEN YOU FIND A
LONELY, DEFENSELESS
GIRL!



WHOSE FAULT IS IT THAT
SHE'S LONELY AND DE-
FENSELESS? WHO BUR-
IED HER ALIVE IN THIS
DISMAL TOMB? I LOVE
MARA AND I'M TAKING
HER OUT INTO THE
SUNLIGHT...!

GET
OUT!



GET OFF MY BOAT AND OUT
OF MY LIFE OR I'LL KILL YOU!
THE NEXT TIME I SEE YOU,
I'LL SHOOT WITHOUT
WARNING!

I WONDER IF YOU WOULD!
YOU'RE A COWARD... AFRAID
TO FACE LIFE... BUT I DON'T
THINK YOU'RE A KILLER!



I'M GOING
NOW, MARA DARLING...
BUT I'LL BE BACK! I'M
COMING BACK TONIGHT
TO TAKE YOU AWAY!
YOU WILL MARRY ME,
WON'T YOU?

OH BOB... I DO
LOVE YOU! I
WANT TO
MARRY YOU...
BUT I CAN'T
LEAVE MY
FATHER! I LOVE
HIM, TOO!



YOU'LL HAVE TO DECIDE, DEAR!
I'LL BE BACK FOR YOUR
ANSWER! AND YOURS,
MARK KING! YOU HAVE
A DECISION TOO, AND
IT'S NOT AN EASY ONE!

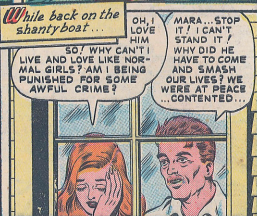
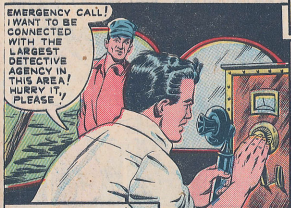
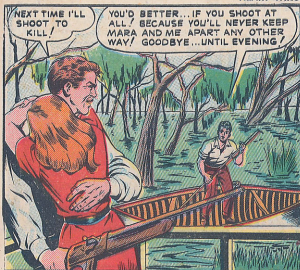
GET
OUT!
I'LL COUNT
TO FIVE...!



AND DON'T TRY TO SLIP
AWAY, MARK KING! I'LL
FOLLOW MARA TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH!
THERE IS NO HIDING
PLACE FOR HER
HEART OR YOUR
CONSCIENCE!

I
WARNED
YOU...!







I KNOW MY HEART, FATHER... AND A THOUSAND YEARS WON'T CHANGE IT! PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT WHAT YOU CAN NEVER CHANGE!

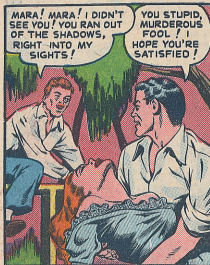
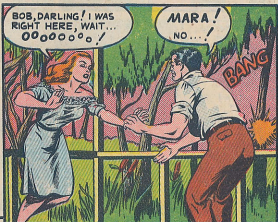
I... I'M GOING OUT ALONE TO THINK THIS OUT, MARA! I'LL BE BACK LATER!

But once clear of the shantyboat, Mark King's movements grew furtive, his secret purpose grimly clear!



An instant of time... a moment of Eternity suspended... and a thing is done beyond recall!

ning, a slim white shape purred into the bayou!



SHE'S ALIVE BUT SHE MUST BE OPERATED ON AT ONCE! GET HER ABOARD YOUR CRUISER! WE'LL TRY TO REACH A HOSPITAL...!

NO! THERE WOULDN'T BE TIME! ONLY ONE MAN CAN SAVE MARA...

...THE ONCE BRILLIANT SURGEON... DR. MARK KING!

NO! NO...! I CAN'T! YOU HAD NO RIGHT TO PRY INTO MY LIFE! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG...!



I GOT YOUR HISTORY BY RADIO! SIXTEEN YEARS AGO YOU CREATED A NEW DARING OPERATING TECHNIQUE FOR SAVING LIVES...

STOP! IT WAS A FAILURE! I OPERATED AND A PATIENT DIED! I WOULD HAVE GONE TO PRISON, MARA TO AN ORPHANAGE! I FLED...

IT WASN'T A FAILURE! YOUR PATIENT DIED OF HEART DISEASE, DR. KING! YOUR OPERATION IS WORLD FAMOUS TODAY... BUT NO ONE COULD FIND YOU!

THEN... THEN I'VE WASTED SIXTEEN YEARS RUNNING AWAY FROM SOMETHING THAT NEVER EXISTED! AND I COULD HAVE DONE SO MUCH! MARA...

YOUR INSTRUMENTS ARE IN THAT CHEST, AREN'T THEY? HURRY!

YES...YES! MY HANDS ARE STILL STEADY! I'LL NEED SHEETS...HOT WATER! RIG BRIGHT LIGHTS FROM YOUR GENERATOR!

Thus, as darkness fell, a man battled against the Dark Angel of Death...and against the darkness that had clouded his own soul!

SUTURE, BOB!

SUTURE, DOCTOR!

I'VE DONE ALL I CAN, BOB... ALL ANY MAN CAN! THE REST IS UP TO PROVIDENCE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT MYSELF, NOW!

THERE'S NOTHING TO SAY, DR. KING! IT'S MIDNIGHT! YESTERDAY IS GONE FOREVER! THIS IS A NEW DAY...FOR ALL THREE OF US!

And as the moon lost itself behind the cypress trees...

And with the dawn...

FATHER! BOB! YOU'RE FRIENDS NOW! EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT!

DARLING, EVERYTHING IS SO WONDERFULLY, GLORIOUSLY RIGHT! THIS IS DAWN...OUR DAWN, MY DEAREST!

HATE DIED LAST NIGHT, MY DEAR! HURRY NOW AND GET WELL! WE'VE SO MUCH TO DO... SO MUCH LOST TIME TO MAKE UP FOR!

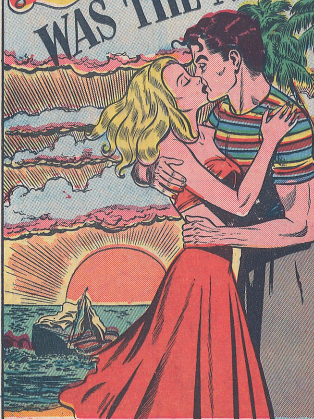
FATHER, REMEMBER THOSE

BEAUTIFUL WORDS YOU READ TO ME ONE NIGHT? SAY THEM TO ME NOW... SAY THEM FOR ALL THREE OF US!

And as the new day dawned over the swamp land...

I REMEMBER, DEAR! WHITHER THOU GOEST, I SHALL GO...AND MY WAY SHALL BE YOUR WAY FOR ALL ETERNITY!

Love WAS THE NAVIGATOR

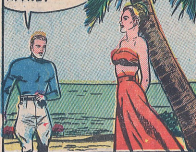


SUSAN LEEDS WAS WEALTHY AND WILLFUL, DID EXACTLY AS SHE PLEASED, AND LIVED SOLELY FOR HER OWN PLEASURE! THEN, SHIPWRECKED ON AN ISLAND, HER WHIM FOR ROMANCE CHANGED HER ENTIRE LIFE AND SHE COULD NO LONGER HAVE HER OWN WAY... FOR HER HEART HAD BEEN SHIPWRECKED WITH HER AND IT HAD BECOME HER RULER!

SUSAN'S FAMILY ALWAYS SPENT THE WINTERS IN FLORIDA! SO DID KEN BRISTOL!

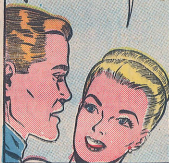
SUSAN, YOU'D BETTER GET INTO YOUR RIDING HABIT! WE'RE TO MEET THE CROWD AT THE STABLES AT FIVE!

I'M NOT GOING RIDING, KEN! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!



BUT, DARLING, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED IT! YOU SAID YESTERDAY...

THAT WAS YESTERDAY! TODAY IT SOUNDS DISGUSTINGLY DULL!

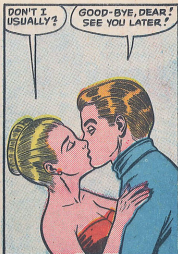


I WANT TO GO SAILING!

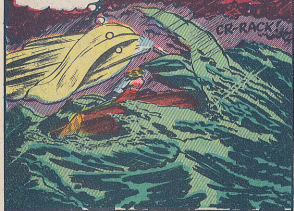
SUSAN, WE CAN'T! THEY'VE POSTED STORM WARNINGS ALL ALONG THE COAST! IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS!



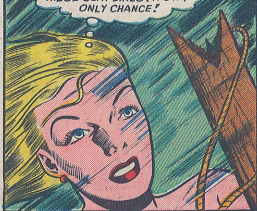
HEART THROBS



I CAN'T...WIND'S TOO STRONG...
OH, THE MAST'S CRACKING!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... LASH MYSELF TO THE REST OF THE MAST WITH THESE BOAT LINES! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!



LASHED TO THE MAST TO KEEP FROM GOING OVERBOARD, SUSAN LAPSED INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS!



HER NEXT REALIZATION WAS OF STRONG ARMS HOLDING HER TIGHTLY AND OF WIND AND RAIN IN HER FACE!

WHERE AM I?

TAKE IT EASY! YOU'RE OKAY, THANKS TO AN ILL WIND THAT BLEW IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!



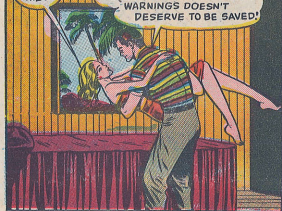
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING, SISTER, EXCEPT THAT I HAVEN'T TIME FOR THE SIXTY-FOUR DOLLAR QUESTION!



YOU SAVED ME!

YES, AND I DON'T KNOW WHY! ANYBODY WHO'D TAKE A SAILING SKIFF OUT AGAINST STORM WARNINGS DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE SAVED!



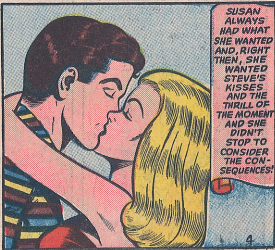
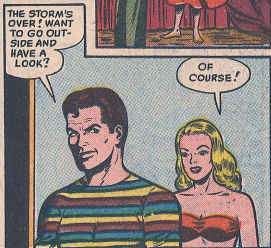
ALL I HAVE TO SAY IS... YOU HAVE MORE LUCK THAN SENSE! AND - DON'T TALK BACK... SAVE YOUR STRENGTH!

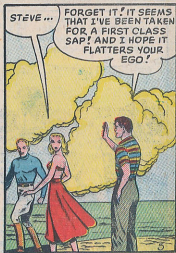
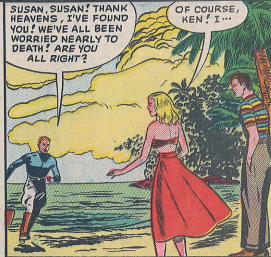
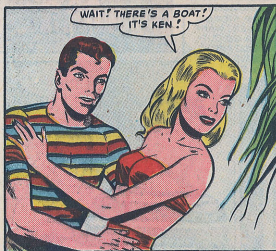
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER... I'M ALIVE! AND HE'S THE HANDSOMEST MAN I EVER SAW!



And THEN SUSAN WENT TO SLEEP!

HEART THROBS





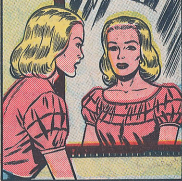
HEART THROBS

DAYS AND WEEKS PASSED AND SUSAN WAS HAUNTED WITH THE REMEMBRANCE OF STEVE!

OH, WHY CAN'T I FORGET HIM? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME? MY HEAD ACHES... AND SO DOES MY HEART!

STEVE DOESN'T HAVE THE MONEY AND SOCIAL POSITION I WANT! I DON'T WANT TO LOVE HIM... SO BE! BUT I DO! HE WAS RIGHT... I'VE BEEN AN EGOTISTICAL FOOL AND NOW I'M BEING REPAID!

YOU'RE A VAIN, SELFISH CREATURE! THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST HONEST EMOTION YOU EVER HAD IN YOUR LIFE! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?



Next morning...

WELL, SUSAN, I SEE YOU'RE READY FOR BOATING AS WE PLANNED! I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND!

NO, KEN, I'M GOING... BUT I'M GOING BY MYSELF!



I'LL BE TRUTHFUL WITH YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME, KEN! I DON'T LOVE YOU AND NEVER WILL! YOU REALLY DON'T LOVE ME EITHER! WE WERE ENGAGED BECAUSE IT WAS THE PROPER THING, SOCIALLY!



I'M BEING HONEST WITH EVERYBODY, FOR A CHANGE, INCLUDING MYSELF! I LOVE STEVE MORGAN AND I'M GOING TO HIM!

STEVE MORGAN? WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT...



IT'S MORE THAN THAT, KEN... HE WANTS ME!



Later...

SUSAN, DARLING, YOU CAME BACK TO ME!

AND IT'S NOT A WHIM OF THE MOMENT, STEVE! I WANT YOU TO LOVE ME... ALWAYS!



When the lure of gayety and glamour beckoned to Jane Pierson, she fell under its spell, as almost any girl would! But, when it dominated her soul to the exclusion of all else, she found she had to pay the price, and earn

A Second CHANCE at HAPPINESS



Pete Black, the boy next door, had been Jane's "steady" ever since school days, and though he had never formally proposed, it was understood that one day they would marry! But that seemed far in the future as Jane started another working day at the "Swank Shop!"

I WISH I COULD AFFORD TO BUY CLOTHES LIKE THESE... INSTEAD OF ALWAYS SELLING THEM TO GIRLS WITH PLENTY OF MONEY!

Then Jane indulged in her favorite pastime—pretending she was a wealthy customer!

YOU SAY IT'S ONLY \$95.00? I'LL TAKE IT!

AND PLEASE ORDER A HALF DOZEN MORE IN ASSORTED COLORS! CHARGE IT, OF COURSE!



Jane was too absorbed to notice the customer who entered the shop...



I BEG YOUR PARDON, MISS! WILL YOU WAIT ON ME, PLEASE?



I-UH...YES, OF COURSE! W-WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

WHY, YOU'RE JANE PIERSON, AREN'T YOU? I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOU! I'M RITA HOLBROOK!

Rita Holbrook belonged to one of the wealthiest families in town! Though she and Jane had been childhood friends, the ensuing years had widened the gap between them...



HOW ARE YOU? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HILLTOWN IN A LONG TIME!

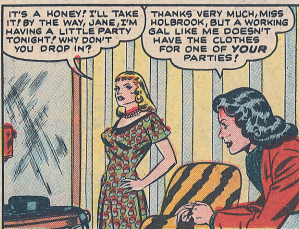
OH, I'VE EITHER BEEN AWAY AT SCHOOL OR TRAVELLING! BUT I INTEND TO SPEND THIS SUMMER AT HOME, RENEWING OLD ACQUAINTANCES!



THAT'S A CUTE LITTLE MODEL! I THINK I'LL TRY IT ON!

HOW DARE SHE? THAT'S MY DRESS!

OF COURSE, MISS HOLBROOK! JUST STEP INTO THE DRESSING ROOM!



IT'S A HONEY! I'LL TAKE IT! BY THE WAY, JANE, I'M HAVING A LITTLE PARTY TONIGHT! WHY DON'T YOU DROP IN?

THANKS VERY MUCH, MISS HOLBROOK, BUT A WORKING GAL LIKE ME DOESN'T HAVE THE CLOTHES FOR ONE OF YOUR PARTIES!



IF A NEW DRESS IS ALL THAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK, CHARGE ONE TO MY ACCOUNT! YOU CAN PAY ME ANY TIME! AND DON'T MISS HOLBROOK ME! MY NAME IS RITA!

THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, MISS HOLBROOK! BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD!

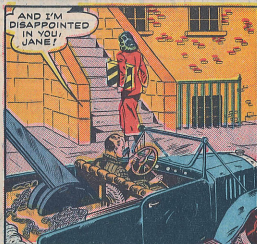
Jane's reserve gradually disappeared as she realized Rita wanted to befriend her...besides, the prospect of owning a "Swank Shop" creation was a temptation hard to resist...

NOW DON'T YOU GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT! I'LL EXPECT YOU AROUND NINE... IN A NEW DRESS!





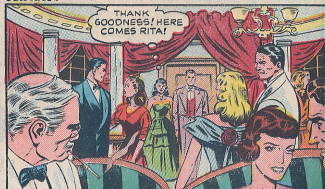
Jane carefully avoided Pete's steadfast eyes as she related the exciting events of the morning...



But Jane soon forgot her anger as she anticipated the gala evening ahead, and her lovely new dress added the final touch to her excitement!



But when she entered the Holbrook mansion, her happy anticipation changed to apprehension as she looked with envy at those carefree, gay young people! They took all of this luxury for granted, while she was just an outsider!



I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME, JANE! I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET HARRISON GRANT! JANE'S AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE, HARRISON! YOU TWO WILL EXCUSE ME, WON'T YOU? I HAVE TO PLAY HOSTESS!

HARRISON GRANT! GASP! THE MILLIONAIRE'S SON!

IF YOU'RE AN OLD FRIEND OF RITA'S, HOW COME I HAVE NOT SEEN YOU BEFORE?

OH, I'VE BEEN AROUND... YOU JUST HAVEN'T NOTICED ME!



THE GIRL'S NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL... SHE KNOWS HOW TO DANCE! I WARN YOU, JANE, NOW THAT I'VE FOUND YOU, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU OUT OF MY LIFE!

AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU OUT OF MINE!

It was many hours later that Harrison Grant drove Jane home...

IT'S BEEN A MARVELOUS EVENING, JANE! WHEN WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?

WILL TOMORROW NIGHT BE TOO SOON, HARRISON?



TOMORROW WON'T BE SOON ENOUGH, YOU LITTLE IMP!

OHMM!



GOOD NIGHT, JANE... UNTIL TOMORROW!

UNTIL TOMORROW, HARRISON!



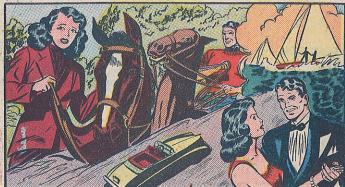
Jane's hopes knew no bounds as with pounding heart she re-lived every thrilling moment of the evening...

JUST IMAGINE! LITTLE JANE PIERSON DATING A MILLIONAIRE'S SON! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



HEART THROBS

The weeks that followed were a happy, breathless whirl! Nothing mattered except the thrilling carefree hours she spent with Harrison...



But with all her new-found happiness, Jane had a troubled heart! A shiver of apprehension went through her whenever she recalled what she had done a few days after meeting Harrison...

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS, BUT I MUST HAVE EXPENSIVE CLOTHES OR I WON'T STAND A CHANCE WITH HARRISON! I DON'T THINK RITA WOULD MIND IF I CHARGED THESE FEW THINGS TO HER ACCOUNT!

WHEN I'M MRS. HARRISON GRANT, I'LL PAY HER BACK WITH INTEREST!

One night as Jane left the shop she was startled to see Pete Black waiting for her! She realized guiltily that she hadn't seen him since the night of the party!

HELLO, JANE... LONG TIME NO SEE!

OH... HELLO, PETE! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF?

LET'S GO IN HERE FOR A CUP OF COFFEE! I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU!

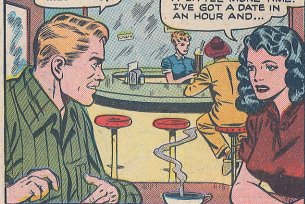
PETE! BE CAREFUL! YOU'LL GET GREASE ALL OVER ME!



JANE, I'VE JUST BOUGHT A SERVICE STATION ON MAIN STREET! I'M THROUGH BEING A BACK-YARD MECHANIC!

THAT'S WONDERFUL, PETE! LOTS OF LUCK! YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT WHEN I HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME! I'VE GOT A DATE IN AN HOUR AND...

THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, JANE! IN A FEW MONTHS I SHOULD BE ALL SET AND WE CAN BE MARRIED! WHAT SAY WE ANNOUNCE OUR ENGAGEMENT RIGHT AWAY?



HEART THROBS

For a moment, as Jane stared at the ring, her heart beat faster... the old feeling within her for Pete welled up! But the image of Harrison and the future she was planning for herself smothered her sudden impulse!



I...I'M SORRY, PETE! I CAN'T DO IT! I WANT SOMETHING MORE OUT OF MY LIFE THAN TO BE THE WIFE OF A GARAGE MECHANIC!



I SUPPOSE IT'S THAT HARRISON GRANT YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING AROUND WITH! LISTEN TO ME, JANE! HE'LL NEVER MARRY YOU! HE'S MEANT FOR RITA AND HER KIND... AND ONE OF THESE FINE DAYS SHE'S GONNA STEP UP AND CLAIM HIM!



HOW DARE YOU? HARRISON GRANT LOVES ME! HE'LL MARRY ME ANY TIME I SAY THE WORD! AND SOMETHING TELLS ME I'M GOING TO SAY IT SOON!

ALL RIGHT, JANE! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT! BUT DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU!



Jane, choking down angry tears, rushed away! But a gnawing doubt began to rankle in her heart, and she determined to make Harrison declare himself that night!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, HONEY? YOU'RE NOT YOUR USUAL SWEET SMILING SELF TONIGHT!

I...I'VE BEEN THINKING OF THE FUTURE, HARRISON!



THE FUTURE WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF, HONEY! LET'S THINK ABOUT THE PRESENT!

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO NOW FOR SOME MORE FUN?

DON'T YOU EVER THINK OF ANYTHING BUT HAVING A GOOD TIME?



YOU'RE A SWEET KID, JANIE... AND WE'VE HAD LOTS OF FUN TOGETHER! LET'S NOT SPOIL THINGS WITH A LOT OF SERIOUS TALK!



It was true, then! Pete was right! Harrison had never intended to marry Jane! What a fool she had been!

WHY, JANIE, WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU NEVER ACTED THIS WAY BEFORE!

I...I CAN'T EXPLAIN! PLEASE TAKE ME HOME!



When Jane entered the shop the next morning, the guilty anxiety that had been tugging at her heart all these weeks suddenly burst into full flower!

MISS HOLBROOK FINDS SEVERAL DRESSES SHE NEVER BOUGHT CHARGED TO HER ACCOUNT! DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?

WHY, YES, MR. CARTER, I... I DO BUT I MEANT TO PAY FOR THEM AS SOON AS I SAVED UP THE MONEY!

THAT INNOCENT LITTLE BABY FACE OF YOURS CERTAINLY HAD US ALL FOOLED! YOU NOT ONLY TRIED TO STEAL HARRISON... YOU HAD THE GALL TO USE MY MONEY TO DO IT!

THAT'S NOT TRUE! HARRISON NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE ...

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CHEAP LITTLE FORTUNE HUNTER! AND A COMMON THIEF AS WELL! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO CALL THE POLICE!

OHH!

WHAT JANE DID WAS VERY WRONG, MISS HOLBROOK... AND YOU COULD PROSECUTE TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW! BUT JANE'S NOT REALLY A THIEF... SHE'S JUST BEEN A VERY FOOLISH GIRL!

Yes, Jane had been foolish! And her folly had hurt everyone! She had lost Pete... betrayed Rita... and given up the trust of Mr. Carter!

I'M LUCKY THAT RITA SAID SHE'D LET ME PAY HER BACK A LITTLE AT A TIME! I DON'T DESERVE IT! SOB! AND MR. CARTER! SOB! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FACE HIM AGAIN! I'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER JOB...

But without references, good jobs are hard to find! After weary, fruitless searching, Jane was finally hired as a waitress at the **ROADSIDE TAVERN**, a place decent people in Hilltown usually shunned!

Gradually Jane got used to her work at the tavern! It was hard and exhausting, but she doggedly stuck to it, determined to pay back every cent of her debt! Finally...

ALL RIGHT, CUTIE! YOU'RE HIRED! TWENTY BUCKS A WEEK AND TIPS! REPORT TONIGHT AT 6!

Y...YES, SIR! THANK YOU!

WHEW! I'M TIRED! BUT THANK GOODNESS I'LL SOON BE ALL PAID UP!

IF I'D ONLY LISTENED TO PETE! WHAT A FOOL I WAS NOT TO REALIZE I LOVED HIM ALL THE TIME! BUT HE WOULDN'T HAVE ME NOW!



The next evening, as she greeted a couple at one of her tables, Jane felt the sudden pangs of panic clutch at her throat...



But Jane forced herself to be casual...



Jane went about her duties, hardly aware of what she was doing... and Harrison and Rita prepared to leave...



ADVICE ON *Love Problems*

by Marilyn Minton

Dear Marilyn Minton:

Would you think I was wicked if I said I hated my sweetheart's sister? It has come to the point where we can never be alone because she always wants to come along. I am 19 and Bill is 22—his sister is 20 and never has her own dates. She always insists that we go where she wants to go and Bill always agrees, saying it makes no difference to him. He never even asks me! What can I do to be alone with him? We're planning to be married soon and I wonder if she will be hanging around then too. I love Bill very much and don't want to hurt him. What is your advice?

Susan Mills
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Susan:

I think you and Bill had better have a heart-to-heart talk about his sister. Though you love him, it is essential that he knows how you feel about having his sister around constantly. After you have explained your side of the situation, Bill will surely take steps to find dates for his sister or in some other way will see that you are left alone together. If he really is in love with you, he will understand and will try to remedy the situation.

Marilyn Minton

Dear Marilyn Minton:

I am in love with a man I have never met. I know it sounds fantastic but I see him every day on my way to work—he waits for a bus on the same corner I do—and it's all I can do to keep from talking to him. I don't know whether he's married, in fact, I don't know anything about him. How can I meet him? He has noticed me, I know, because he smiles at me when I arrive at the bus stop every morning. What shall I do? I think about him all the time and don't even have any desire to go out with other men.

Dorothy McCarthy
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Dorothy:

Your predicament is similar to many other girls' from whom I have received letters. If the man has noticed you, he may speak to you one of these mornings and then your worries will be over. If not, there's nothing you can do to force an introduction—that is nothing that won't seem rather forward. My advice to you is to try and forget him if you possibly can. If necessary, use another means of transportation so you won't see him every morning. Your infatuation will pass in time, I am sure, and you will be able to enjoy going out with other young men with whom you are acquainted.

Marilyn Minton

Dear Marilyn Minton:

I have been going with Gilmore for a good three years now and I love him very much. His sister told me that he talks about me constantly but when we're together, he's too shy to do anything more than hold my hand. I think he is as much in love with me as I am with him, but in all the years I've known him, he hasn't kissed me once. His sister told me he's been bashful all his life. What do you suggest I do to break him of his shyness?

Ruth Ross
Boston, Mass.

Dear Ruth:

I guess there's nothing left for you to do but take the initiative yourself. Usually I don't advise such tactics for a young lady, but yours sounds like an unusual case. Before you do anything, you'd better find out exactly how he feels about you—question him, tell him what you told me, worded differently, of course, and ask him about his intentions. If he just considers you a platonic friend, then I'm afraid you'll either have to change his mind or give him up, unless a platonic friendship appeals to you. But by questioning him tactfully you can find out what your next course of action will be.

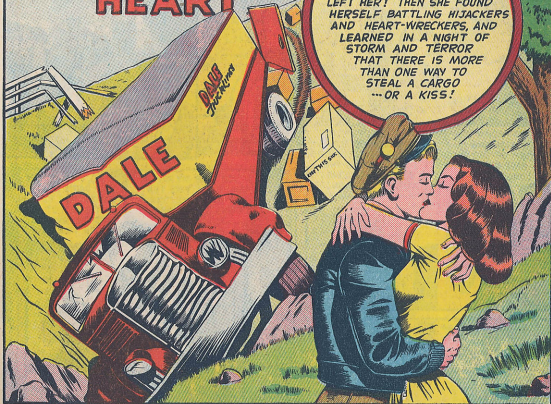
Marilyn Minton

If you are troubled by a love problem, write to Marilyn Minton, noted psychologist and domestic relations counselor. We will print as many of these letters as space permits. Because of the time involved, Marilyn Minton is unable to make any personal replies.

THE HIJACKED HEART

**NORMA DALE
SACRIFICED EVERYTHING**

--EVEN LOVE-- TO BUILD UP
THE TRUCK LINE HER FATHER
LEFT HER! THEN SHE FOUND
HERSELF BATTLING HIJACKERS
AND HEART-WRECKERS, AND
LEARNED IN A NIGHT OF
STORM AND TERROR
THAT THERE IS MORE
THAN ONE WAY TO
STEAL A CARGO
...OR A KISS!

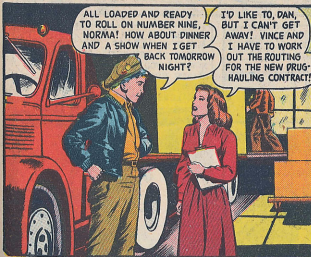


ALL LOADED AND READY
TO ROLL ON NUMBER NINE,
NORMA! HOW ABOUT DINNER
AND A SHOW WHEN I GET
BACK TOMORROW
NIGHT?

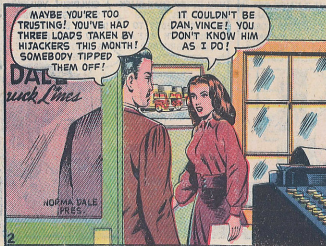
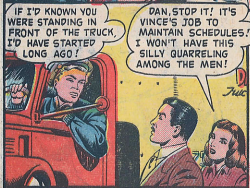
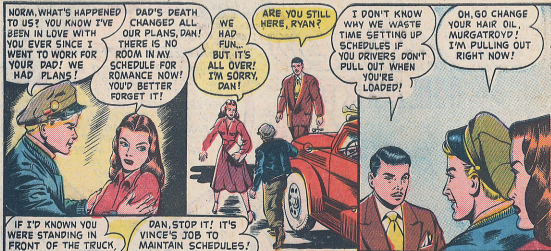
I'D LIKE TO, DAN,
BUT I CAN'T GET
AWAY! VINCE AND
I HAVE TO WORK
OUT THE ROUTING
FOR THE NEW DRUG-
HAULING CONTRACT!

VINCE! EVER SINCE
YOU HIRED THAT SLICK-
HAired EEL, YOU'VE
BEEN TOO BUSY TO
GO OUT WITH ME! AM
I BEING BRUSHED OFF?

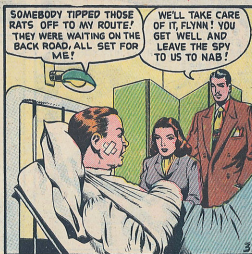
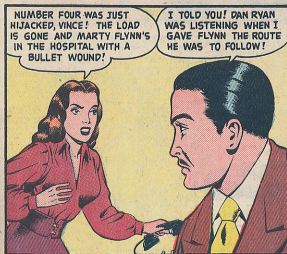
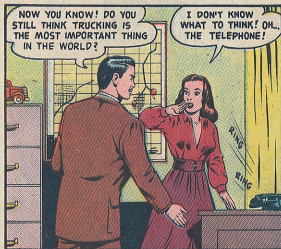
DAN, STOP BEING
CHILDISH! YOU KNOW
I'M BUSY BUILDING
UP THIS BUSINESS!
AND VINCE FERRIS
IS A GOOD TRAFFIC
MANAGER!



HEART THROBS

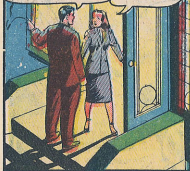


HEART THROBS

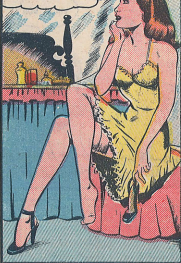


GET LOTS OF SLEEP, HONEY! YOU'LL HAVE SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO MAKE TOMORROW! YOU CAN GUESS WHAT ONE OF THEM WILL BE!

DON'T RUSH ME, VINCE! YOU'VE GOT ME CONFUSED NOW! I'VE GOT TO THINK THINGS OUT STRAIGHT!

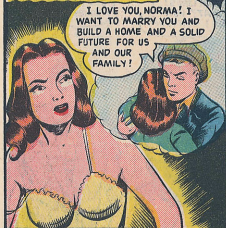


OH, VINCE, WHY DID YOU HAVE TO UPSET ME NOW? WHEN YOUR ARMS ARE AROUND ME, I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT! I'M ALL IN A WHIRL!



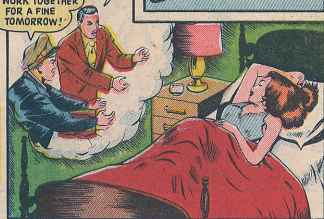
THEN MEMORIES INTRUDE...

I LOVE YOU, NORMA! I WANT TO MARRY YOU AND BUILD A HOME AND A SOLID FUTURE FOR US AND OUR FAMILY!



KISS ME, HONEY, AND YOU WON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE!

MARRY ME, DARLING, AND WE'LL WORK TOGETHER FOR A FINE TOMORROW!

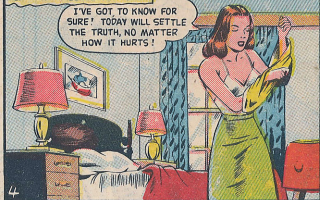


VINCE IS EXCITING, BUT DAN IS STRONG AND STEADY! HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE IN LEAGUE WITH THE HIJACKERS! BUT HE'S JEALOUS!



AFTER A SLEEPLESS NIGHT...

I'VE GOT TO KNOW FOR SURE! TODAY WILL SETTLE THE TRUTH, NO MATTER HOW IT HURTS!



I'VE FIGURED OUT A ROUTING FOR THAT \$30,000 TRUCKLOAD OF PENICILLIN, NORMA! THAT WOULD BE A GOLD MINE FOR HIJACKERS!

IF WE LOSE THAT, WE'LL LOSE OUR CONTRACT WITH SURBEN DRUGS! THEY'RE OUR BIGGEST CUSTOMER!



WE'LL HAVE TO ASK DAN TO TAKE THE LOAD THROUGH TONIGHT, VINCE! WITH MARTY FLYNN IN THE HOSPITAL, THERE'S NO ONE ELSE FREE!

I KNOW...BUT I'LL SEE THAT HE DOESN'T GET A CHANCE TO DOUBLE-CROSS YOU!



I'VE FIGURED OUT A TRICKY ROUTE! I WON'T LET HIM KNOW WHAT HIS ROUTE IS, UNTIL HE'S IN THE CAB, READY TO START, SO HE CAN'T TIP OFF HIS PALS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE DAN IS WORKING WITH THE HIJACKERS! I WON'T BELIEVE IT!



THAT EVENING...

HELLO, RYAN! I SEE YOU GOT BACK ON TIME!

YEAH! HERE'S THE MANIFEST AND RECEIPTS, JUNIOR! TRY NOT TO GET HAIR OIL ALL OVER 'EM!



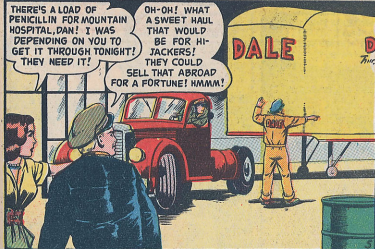
NORMA, I'VE THOUGHT EVERYTHING OVER ON THIS TRIP AND I'VE MADE MY DECISION! I'M QUITTING! THERE'S NO FUTURE FOR ME HERE!

QUITTING! OH, NO, DAN...



THERE'S A LOAD OF PENICILLIN FOR MOUNTAIN HOSPITAL, DAN! I WAS DEPENDING ON YOU TO GET IT THROUGH TONIGHT! THEY NEED IT!

OH-OH! WHAT A SWEET HAUL THAT WOULD BE FOR HIJACKERS! THEY COULD SELL THAT ABOARD FOR A FORTUNE! HMMM!



OKAY, I'LL TAKE THIS ONE LOAD THROUGH! I'LL GET A BITE TO EAT AND START RIGHT OUT!

UPL! F-FINE, DAN! WE'LL HAVE THE TRACTOR HOOKED ON AND READY!



HE CHANGED HIS TUNE FAST, DIDN'T HE? THE PROSPECT OF \$30,000 WORTH OF DRUGS IN ONE GRAB MUST HAVE MADE HIM CARELESS!

DON'T, VINCE! I WON'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IT UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE!

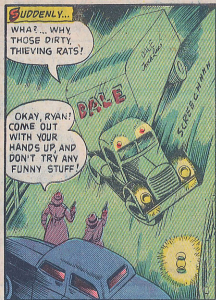
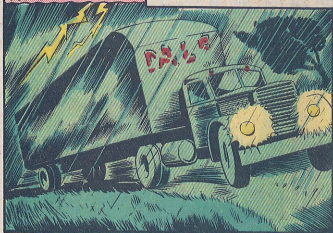
HALF AN HOUR LATER... THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE! I'VE GOT TO HEAR AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS ON THIS TRIP!

HERE'S YOUR ROUTE, RYAN! YOU'LL BE CHECKED FOR TIME, SO DON'T STOP OFF TO TELEPHONE ANY PALS ALONG THE WAY!

OKAY, GREASE-TOP! HAVE YOUR FUN! BUT MY LAST OFFICIAL ACT HERE IS GONNA BE CHANGING YOUR FACE THE HARD WAY! JUST REMEMBER THAT!



AN HOUR LATER...



SUDDENLY...

WHAT?... WHY THOSE DIRTY, THIEVING RATS!

OKAY, RYAN! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP, AND DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF!

SO I WAS RIGHT! I FIGURED YOU WERE THE FINGER MAN ON THESE HIJACKINGS! THAT'S WHY I TOOK THE LOAD TONIGHT, WAX-HEAD!

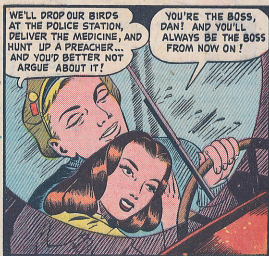
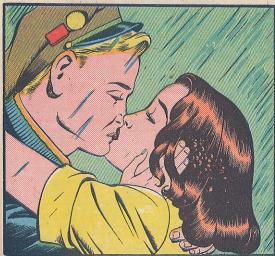
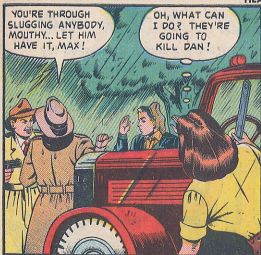
NEVER MIND THE WISE CRACKS, RYAN! THIS IS WHERE YOU CHECK OUT!



WE'RE FIXING IT SO IT'LL LOOK LIKE YOU PLANNED THE HEIST AND GOT SHOT BY YOUR OWN PALS! I MIGHT EVEN MARRY YOUR GIRL!

YOU SKUNK, GETTING NORMA'S CONFIDENCE SO YOU COULD ROB HER! I WISH I'D SLUGGED YOU BACK AT THE DOCK!





This mammoth bridge is made entirely of Erector girders. So strong it can support 200-lb. man.

Made of STEEL to Build like REAL

World's greatest construction toy

Developed at the

Gilbert

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ERECTOR®

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FREE—Big

"Fun and Thrills" book combined with giant American Flyer Train Book. 40 large pages. Over 100 color pictures.



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for practical experience**

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MR. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. 9NA3
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